



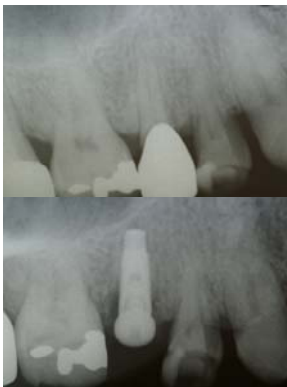
## PERIO POINTERS

### Endodontics or Implant

I recently heard a postgraduate student in periodontics at SIU state that doing endodontics on a tooth is nothing more than a space maintainer for an implant later on. This attitude toward the natural dentition is highly disturbing to me. I feel there is no substitute for the natural dentition. Implants are just a tool in our toolbox, not a perfect solution to an imperfect mouth. Both implants and endodontics are highly successful procedures. The goal in my mind is to conserve and preserve nature. Both procedures require technical skill and treatment planning. Making the right decision should be about saving the patient's dentition using minimally invasive techniques.

My thought process involves how much healthy ferrule do we have or can we have? Will I have to do a post and core? Will crown lengthening need to be done? How much bone is there for an implant? If the root is long, could we extrude the root orthodontically instead of doing a crown lengthening or implant? You can move the tooth about 1 mm. every two weeks. From a cost standpoint which is the better value? If I need endo, crown lengthening, post and core, and I have good volume of bone, perhaps the better value is an implant. Obviously, it also depends on which tooth, the anatomy of the tooth, the presence or absence of other disease, as well as the patient's health history.

### Case Study



Top is nonrestorable tooth with adequate height of bone to do implant. Bottom shows inadequate height of bone so cl was done.



#### \*Questions to ask?

Is the tooth periodontally involved?

Can endodontics be done successfully?

Is there enough healthy tooth structure left to restore the tooth and ensure structural support?

If crown lengthening is necessary, how will it impact the adjacent teeth?

Is this an endodontic retreatment?

What is the caries susceptibility of the patient?

What is the periodontal status of the teeth in the arch?

How important is the affected tooth to the overall case?

\*This is from Inside Dentistry– July 2008 ( nice article on this issue)

October 2008



A hungry dog hunts best.  
Lee Trevino

### Newsletter Spotlight

I try to keep these newsletters short and to the point. I also try to make them pertinent to you the general practitioner. I hope this helps a little in making decisions on selecting the best treatment for the patient.